

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE GEOPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
4TH DECEMBER 2013**

PRESENT: Botterman, Lechner, Marquet, Marin, Schünemann, Matousek, Motiejuniene, Babane, Hauka, Rolewska, Rolewski, Vanhemelen, Todorova, Stanchev, Jensen, Hovi, Rekola, Lopez Garcia-Asenjo, Lenci, Fiddaman, Österreicher, Terander, Merlino, Bohorquez and Fedi

SECRETARIAT: Zolla

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Item 1: Approval of the agenda.

→The President, Mr Chris Botterman, welcomed participants and presented the items included on the agenda.

It was decided that the elections for the Presidency and Bureau would be postponed until 2:00 p.m.

Items 2 and 3: 2013-2014 Work Programme for Social Partners in the Agricultural Sector and joint declaration of the social partners.

→The President presented the final version of the Work Programme for Social Partners and the joint declaration [EA\(13\)6278 \(rev.1\)](#) and [EA\(13\)7406 \(rev.1\)](#), including the amendments made during the last social dialogue meeting of 19th September. The programme and the declaration were officially approved.

Item 3: Directive on Seasonal workers

→ The President presented the approved text [EA\(13\)9741 \(rev.1\)](#) of the directive on conditions of entry and residence of seasonal workers from third countries. In particular, he focussed on the contractual aspect, housing conditions and the principle of equal treatment.

The participants discussed Article 12 on the length of the work permit in detail, which at present can vary between 5 and 9 months (over a 12-month working period) and which is no longer limited to 6 months.

Item 4: Posting of workers - New INTEFP project

→ The President informed the group of the imminent agreement in the Council concerning the version of the Directive on posting of workers, which was expected before the Christmas vacation.

Finally, he reported on the INTEFP project - Mission of European and international action - on the posting of workers, which Geopa had formally backed with a letter of support.

Item 5: Agripass online, introduction by Mr Bob Fiddaman

→ Mr Bob Fiddaman (NFU) presented the final version of the online Agripass project in three languages and explained in detail how to use and save information. More information was available on the site www.agripass.eu

Item 6: Working Group on Tractors and CEETAR request

→The President gave a brief overview of the latest information concerning the Working Group on Tractors at DG Enterprise and confirmed to the participants that Mr Vosinis would be present at the

plenary session the next day, 5th December. There he would give a presentation on the latest legislative developments.

Finally, the President mentioned the formal request of CEETTAR (the European Confederation of Agricultural, Rural, and Forestry Contractors) which sought to begin working together with Geopa on the issue of tractors and other areas overseen by the working group. A meeting was set to take place with the Secretary General of CEETTAR before the winter vacation. The Working Party would address this issue at the next meeting.

Item 7: Consultation of social partners on undeclared work

→ The President communicated Geopa's response to the consultation of the social partners on undeclared work [EA\(13\)6902 \(rev.1\)](#), which had been sent to the Commission on 1st October 2013. Participants then discussed this point.

Items 8 and 9: Evaluation of the seminar in Lithuania and discussion on the new 2014 seminar

→The President presented the results which had been achieved in Lithuania as part of the project "The European Agricultural Labour Market", the latest statistics and the study carried out by Mr Christophe Schroeder.

The participants then took part in a round table discussion and proposed new topics for the 2014 seminar. A list containing all the proposals would be sent to members after the Christmas vacation. Bulgaria said that it could be the 2014 host country.

Item 10: Election of the Presidency

→The following were elected by acclamation:

President: Chris Botterman (BE), Boerebond

1st Vice-President: Joseph Lechner (FR), FNSEA

2nd Vice-President: Veli Matti Rekola (FI), MTA

Bureau: Claudia Merlino (IT), CIA

Jose Bohorquez Mora-Figuera (ES), ASAJA

Agnieszka Rolewska (PL), FZPR

Item 11: Agricultural policy and Employment - conclusions/recommendations

→The President presented the draft conclusions of the report "Agricultural Policy and Employment", which had been written by Professor Buysse from the University of Ghent. It was decided that the deadline for comments from members would be extended to 20th December.

Items 12 and 13: Geopa balance sheet and payment of membership fees 2014

→The President gave a brief overview of the 2013 Geopa balance sheet and confirmed that the Copa Secretariat had decided to maintain the 2014 membership fees at the same level as in 2013.

Item 14: plenary session of the Social Dialogue Committee the next day, 5th December 2013

→The President went through the main items on the agenda of the Social Dialogue Committee on 5th December. Members then debated this point.

The President closed the meeting.